

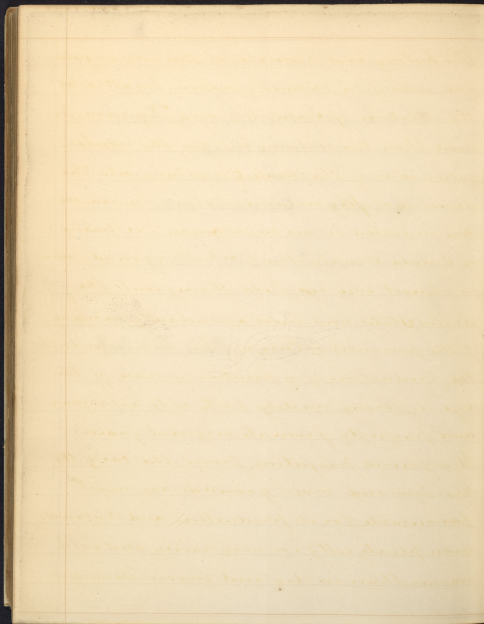
An Essay on the medical  
properties.

of  
Secale. Cornutum  
by  
Manuel. Cyre. Robinson

Passed March 23<sup>d</sup> 1826

The Essay on the medicinal  
properties  
of  
Sedative Peruvianum  
by  
Monsieur J. B. Saurin  
Paris, 1782

The history and properties of this very curious  
and interesting product of nature, has attracted  
the attention of Naturalists and Physicians  
more than two centuries, but for the regular  
introduction of the Chenille Extraction into the  
practice of Physic and Materia Medica we  
are indebted to our countryman Dr. Blumen  
of Onida County New York. It is found growing  
in almost every eye field throughout the  
United States and more abundantly in some  
of the provinces of Europe. This substance is  
the production of a peculiar disease of the  
eye differing widely both as to appearance  
and property from its original grain.  
It is found projecting from the eye of the  
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The history of the Republic of China is a story of  
the continuous struggle of the Chinese people for  
the liberation of their country and the realization  
of their dreams. The Chinese people have  
suffered for centuries under the oppression of  
foreign powers and the feudal system. They  
have fought for their freedom and independence  
and have achieved many victories. The Chinese  
people are now building a new China, a  
strong and united nation. They are working  
for the prosperity and happiness of their  
country and their people. The Chinese people  
are proud of their rich and glorious history  
and they are determined to continue to  
build a better future for themselves and  
for their country.

rye is of a purplish brown colour externally but internally white, it resembles in shape a cock's spur, from whence it derives the name - Ergot - from the French. It differs in length from one fourth to one and a half or even two inches, and is flattened on each side with a furrow or fissure running from one extremity to the other, its taste is acrid and pungent. On the continent of Europe and particularly France where it prevails extensively it has been productive of many epidemic diseases especially the dry gangrene, spreading pestilence throughout vast districts of country; it is reported that in the year 1709 at the Hospital of Orleans in France five hundred patients were afflicted by disease in consequence of eating bread impregnated with the spurred rye. In the state of New Jersey in this country where much rye



Bread is consumed; several cases of gangrene are attributed to the undue presence of the Ergot in the rye, - By Dr Howell, see Philadelphia Med. and Phys. Jour. Nov. No. 11. - 1825.

Although this article in large quantities is poisonous, it is no argument against its use in proper doses, for all poisons when properly regulated as regards quantity become medicinal - The ergot acts with great certainty, and wonderful rapidity on the impregnated uterus, hence it is of great use in the treatment of parturient women. It has been asserted by some writers on this subject that its effects on the impregnated uterus, is not certain, but they are inclined to doubt, the cases in which it has failed to produce an effect are to be attributed to the Practitioner neglecting to reduce vascular action before



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its employment. It is used in pregnancy previous  
to and during labour. It is advantageously  
employed in puerperal convulsions which  
require a speedy delivery. Ergot proves also  
of great service in cases of abortion attended  
with weak contractions of the uterus, and  
much flooding, and when even there  
is much hemorrhage from the uterus,  
from want of contraction, also when  
labour has been lingering and protracted  
on account of debility. It is eminently useful  
in cases of flooding after delivery and to  
expel the placenta after an undue reten-  
tion. It has been said that it would be  
good practice to employ the ergot in  
every case of feet or knees presentation  
to avoid the danger of compressing the  
shard and to facilitate the speedy delivery  
of the child. Dr. Physick has cured an







Obstinate case of painful menstruation by the use of this drug. It also has been used in amenorrhoea. When we wish to expel the fetus by the employment of this medicine, there are some rules to be strictly ~~strictly~~ attended to before its exhibition, viz we should ascertain the position of the child. Whether the pelvis is sufficiently large to permit the child to pass, or if any other impediment exists. There should be a relaxation of the natural mucus, the os uteri soft dilated or dilatable and the pains and contractions of the uterus have ceased, or are so feeble as not to be sufficient to expel the child. We should never exhibit it when the strength of the woman is much exhausted, for it acts in such a continued manner she might die

the same rate of interest being maintained  
by the use of this fund. It also has been  
found in some cases that the fund is  
used for the purpose of the improvement of  
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under its effects. Ergot may be given in  
powder or decoction; in powder the dose  
is from twenty to thirty grains, but  
I think the best form to administer it  
in pregnancy is the decoction, half an ounce +  
boiled slowly for fifteen minutes in a  
pint of water - dose a wine glass full every  
ten minutes pro re nata. The symptoms it  
produces are almost immediate. <sup>patient</sup> The ~~manifest~~ manifests  
an augmented sensibility her pains increase  
in force and frequency and in almost  
every case suffer but small intermissions  
until delivery is accomplished. - Some  
Practitioners, and especially the continental  
ones will not use this substance in pregnancy,  
under a false opinion that it inevitably  
or nearly so produces the death of the  
child. To prove the contrary of this when  
properly and cautiously administered we

Why on the impregnated stone.  
In other cases, it seems to have induced an  
unequal action on Mal. & Fem. in  
producing Dry Gangrene. No notice  
occurs of any extraordinary action on the  
Uterus in these Cases. In many instances  
no notice is made of the condition of the

have the abundant and satisfactory  
 evidence of many highly respectable and  
 able Physicians, the danger to the child  
 arises from its premature and ill timed  
 exhibition - The manner in which  
 ergot acts on the impregnated uterus  
 has led to some dispute and adds  
 another example of the conjecture  
 and doubt of medical Philosophers as  
 regards the *modus operandi* of  
 medicines. In its rapid and immediate  
 action, the advocates of sympathy find  
 an additional confirmation of their  
 doctrine while the humoral pathologists  
 are obliged to summon all their aid  
 in explanation of the singular prop-  
 erty of this new medicine. I among  
 many others have seen cases in  
 which this medicine had scarcely



reached the stomach when the most violent contractions of the uterus were produced showing evidently that it was a matter of utter impossibility for it to pass through the lacteals and lymphatic, thence through the blood vessels and thus affect the uterus.





It is not only on the impregnated  
uterus, that the secale cornutum displays  
such happy, and useful effects. I believe  
it is one of the most valuable medicines  
in the materia medica in curing those  
regular agues, which occur during the  
autumnal months, and I think  
relapses are much less frequent after  
its exhibition than from the usual  
remedies. The use of it in this disease  
is not original with me, Dr. Baker of  
Wilmington, Delaware, is the first  
who employed it and with the  
greatest success; and his opinion  
of its utility is fully confirmed  
by Dr. Dutton of Delaware County,  
Pennsylvania, who published an  
account of it in the 8th volume of the  
medical Recorder. As soon as I was



apprised of the discovery, I took some pains to ascertain the fact by experiment, and am fully convinced of its value. I have used it in several cases I might say many; with almost universal success. In most instances it has acted like a charm and completely dethroned the disease. There are some cases in which it is inadmissible especially with females in a state of pregnancy. Before its exhibition we should prepare the system for its reception by evacuating the alimentary canal by some active cathartic, or emetic, so as to free the system of the accumulations of bile or any other exciting cause; that nothing shall remain to keep up the periodical exacerbations except the habit acquired +



by the system; it is in breaking up  
this chain of morbid action that  
the ergot displays its singular  
power, and efficacy. If vascular action  
or inflammatory diathesis is great, then  
bloodletting must be resorted to;  
there should be a complete apyrexia  
and in fine, where ever bark would  
be proper we may use the secale  
cornutum = The average dose for  
an adult afflicted with intermit-  
tent fever is thirty, or forty grains,  
divided into three powders, the  
first to be given two or three hours  
before the paroxysm makes its appear-  
ance and let the last be taken  
as soon as the first symptom of  
the expected chill makes its  
appearance. If the first trial of it



does not succeed, we must resort to it  
again at the next expected period,  
and <sup>make use of</sup> the same dose. It is sometimes  
advantageously combined with  
cream of Tartar, or magnesia,  
and where much ~~ir~~stability of  
the stomach prevails some aroma-  
tic tincture or essential oil may be  
combined with it, vomiting may  
sometimes occur though not  
desirable, yet I have frequently observed  
the salutary power of the ergot when  
it has produced this effect.

